

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: PREPARATIONS
FOR NEXT JCM

REF: STATE 165001

1. SUMMARY: AYKAZYAN OF SCST PROPOSED A NEW PLANNING
PROCEDURE FOR THE NEXT TRANSPORTATION JCM. WHILE
AFFIRMING SOVIET DESIRE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION IN
THIS AREA, AYKAZYAN STRESSED NEED FOR CAREFUL REVIEW
OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PROGRAMS TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENTS. TIMING FOR NEXT JCM APPEARS FLEXIBLE,
AND MEETING OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES SUGGESTED FOR
LATE SUMMER-EARLY FALL. END SUMMARY.

2. AYKAZYAN OF SCST CALLED IN EMBOFFS JULY 28 TO
DISCUSS PREPARATION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION JCM,
WHICH HE SAID WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2.
AYKAZYAN SUGGESTED THAT EACH SIDE PREPARE SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY UNDER THE TRANSPORTA-R TION AGREEM
ENT DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WHICH WOULD
FIRST BE EXCHANGED BY CORRESPONDENCE FOR MUTUAL
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STUDY, THEN DISCUSSED DURING A JOINT MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES, HELD BEFORE THE JCM EITHER IN
MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON, AND THEN PRESENTED TO THE JCM
AS A MUTUALLY AGREED PROGRAM FOR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY.
IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUERY, AYKAZYAN NOTED THAT THESE
PROPKALS WOULD NATURALLY REFLECT PLANS FOR ON-GOING
ACTIVITY WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED IN THE WORKING GROUPS.

MAIN SOVIET CONCERN APPEARS TO BE THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREE ON ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE FOCUSED AND ACHIEVABLE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

3. AYKAZYAN INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS ALREADY WORKING ON THE BASIS OF THIS PROCEDURE AND WOULD HAVE THEIR PROPOSALS READY AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT TIME COULD PROVE A PROBLEM, AYKAZYAN EMPHASIZED GETTING SECRETARIAT LEVEL AGREEMENT ON A CONCRETE "REALISTIC" PROGRAM, AND COMMENTED THAT, "WHEN THE JCM TAKES PLACE IS ANOTHER QUESTION." IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY, AYKAZYAN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MEETING IS NECESSARY BEFORE JCM, NOTING THE USEFULNESS OF HIS MEETING WITH MORRIS BEFORE THE PLANNED S&T JCM. AYKAZYAN EMPHASIZED SOVIET DESIRE FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION. HE ATTRIBUTED PAST PROBLEMS TO ESTABLISHING "UNREALISTIC" PROGRAMS, AND TO MAKING POOR CHOICES OF TOPICS FOR COOPERATION, POINTING TO NUCLEAR ICEBREAKERS AS ONE SUCH AREA. HE STRESSED NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL AND REALISTIC IN DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION AND ADDED THAT IF THE TWO SIDES COULD NOT AGREE ON COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY IN SOME AREAS, THEY SHOULD BE "LEFT FOR THE FUTURE".

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4. AYKAZYAN CONFIRMED (REF A) THAT METAL'NIKOV WOULD BE ACTING TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY UNTIL A PERMANENT REPLACEMENT IS FOUND FOR ISHCHENKO, WHO IS GOING ON TO A NEW ASSIGNMENT AT UNIDO.

5. COMMENT: SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR MORE CAREFUL PREPARATION AND SELECTION OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS COULD HELP AVOID SOME OF PAST PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH ONLY TIME WILL REVEAL WHETHER POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN PLANNING IS FOLLOWED BY REAL IMPROVEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION. IN ANY CASE, SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THE MESSAGE ABOUT US DISSATISFACTION WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT. SOVIET PROPOSAL IS CLEARLY FORMULATED WITH AN EYE TOWARD THE TWO YEAR MARK, WHEN DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE ON POSSIBLE FUTURE THREE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT. TOON

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